

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claims 1-11 have been deleted, without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a Continuation application seeking coverage of the invention recited therein, Claim 12 has been amended, and new Claims 24-27 have been added, to place this application in immediate condition for allowance.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by the Cytron Defensive Publication (Cytron). This ground of rejection has been rendered moot through the cancellation of Claims 1-11.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cytron in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,616,115 to Klimmek. Concerning Claims 1-11, the ground of rejection is rendered moot by their cancellation, without prejudice. Concerning Claims 12-23, independent Claim 12 as amended is not taught or suggested by the combined teachings of Cytron and Klimmek. In this regard, Claim 12 has been amended to specify that the assembly consisting of a piece of ceramic material encapsulated by the base plate, frame and cover is then inserted within a graphite die. Claim 12 as amended now further recites that the graphite die has inner walls coated with Titanium foil and that the assembly has outer surfaces engaging the foil, with the foil separating the outer surfaces from the walls of the die. This structure and function is nowhere taught or suggested in the prior art applied against independent Claim 12 and dependent Claims 13-23.

Full support for these newly recited limitations in independent Claim 12 may be found in the specification as originally filed on page 11, beginning at line 14 through line 22. The Titanium foil protects the material of the assembly from reacting with the graphite of the die

during the hot pressing procedure. Use of the Titanium foil permits Applicants to run their process at a relatively low vacuum as compared to the relatively high vacuum at which the process disclosed by Klimmek must operate.

As such, Claims 12-23 as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish from the combination of Klimmek and Cytron.

New Claims 24-27 are equally patentable as dependent from independent Claim 12. Support for the limitations of Claims 24-27 is also found on page 11 of the specification, beginning at line 14 and continuing through page 12, line 12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 12-27 as now presented patentably distinguish from the prior art of record. As such, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

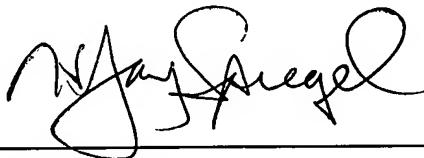
If, for any reason, the Examiner believes that an interview with Applicants' Attorney would be helpful in expediting the prosecution of this patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' Attorney locally at (703) 619-0101 so that a discussion of any outstanding issues may be had.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited

Respectfully submitted,

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